



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held September 21, 2004, the Board took the following action:

62-E

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich:

“On Tuesday, September 14, 2004, the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) along with other airports in the region, had to close operations due to a faulty radio system that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operates in Palmdale, CA. The radio failure occurred because the system was programmed to shut down without warning if technicians neglected to do a regular maintenance check that functions as a data purge. The system requires periodic maintenance every 30 days and this did not happen.

“As a result of this human error, countless lives were in jeopardy and at least two airplane accidents almost occurred during the outage. The FAA indicated about 600 flights were affected, including 150 flights that were cancelled and over 30,000 passengers that were impacted. The outages prompted aviation authorities to ground and reroute airplanes that were supposed to fly through the Los Angeles Center Air Space, which is controlled by the Palmdale facility. The FAA has announced plans to install a new radio system for all 21 air traffic control centers in the country within a month. However, the Los Angeles Center’s Palmdale facility backup radio system also failed last Tuesday.

(Continued on Page 2)

62-E (Continued)

“Currently, LAX has approximately 1,900 flights a day to accommodate 61 million annual passengers (MAP), with Mayor Hahn’s proposed expansion plan taking LAX up to 90 MAP, and upwards to 2,500 flights per day. It should be noted that LAX capacity exceeded 68 MAP before September 11, 2001 and that the airport had reported 14 incursions during that level of operation. Passenger safety is of utmost concern to the Board of Supervisors.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to Marion C. Blakey, Director of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation:

1. Advising them of the Board's concerns and questions as to whether a new radio system can accommodate the expansion plans currently being considered for the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX); and
2. Requesting the FAA to call for hearings in Los Angeles County before a new radio system is installed to ensure that air traffic controllers can safely handle planes landing and taking off at the projected rate of one plane every 30 seconds.

06092104_62-E

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel